

Topic	When There Was No King
Reference	Judges 17-21
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Speaker	Dr Peter Ng

Judges 17-21 is the finale of the Book of Judges. The first two chapters was Israel's failure of conquest of the promised land then you have got battles to defeat evil by the Judges Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah and Samson and each time as you go more of the character flaws of each judge comes up again and again. Chapter 17-21, this actually instead of putting the telescope on the individual leaders, we now put the telescope onto the society at large. This is what is happening to the judges, but what is happening to the people on the ground and so for these five chapters it tells us what is happening on the ground.

There are three points that I want to make:

1. Personal idolatry leads to false religion (Judges 17-18)
2. False religion leads to personal and social disintegration (Judges 19-21)
3. We need to come under the true King

PERSONAL IDOLATRY LEADS TO FALSE RELIGION (JUDGES 17-18)

Judges 17 and 19 are the two chapters we are going to focus on today, because they tell us all we need to know about this particular theme and then the rest we will deal with later. So our action begins in these three states, Dan, Ephraim and Benjamin, right in the center of where Israel is. Remember the Israelites have not conquered part of the Promised Land, Canaanites are living amongst their midst and we start to see the seeds of apostasy in the people of Israel and these seeds are very familiar and we can pick up these seeds in our own society as well.

The seeds of apostasy

1. Seemingly good intentions
2. Religious Pragmaticism
3. False religion begins with self-righteousness
4. False religion is ultimately bound up with materialism
5. The use of spiritual leverage for personal gain.

If you look in any church and in religion, these are the features that actually start to seep in and they are the seeds of disaster for the church.

Seemingly Good Intentions

The story starts off with Micah and his mother and we find that Micah actually stole 1100 pieces of silver. When he stole that money, his mother found out that the money was gone and she was very upset and she issues a curse and in those days they believe in curse. When Micah found out that her mother cursed the guy whole stole, then he confessed that mom it was me. Then she realized that she cursed her own son, so then she decided to reverse the curse. Then she says

Judges 17:1-2 (ESV) There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. 2 And he said to his mother, "The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it." And his mother said, "Blessed be my son by the Lord."

She retracts the curse and she puts a blessing instead.

Judges 17:3 (ESV) And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, "I dedicate the silver to the Lord from my hand for my son, to make a carved image and a metal image. Now therefore I will restore it to you.

In order to make things better, I better take the money that I have, that he give to me, I don't want it, I want to use it and just dedicate it to God. The trouble is Exodus says

Exodus 20:4 (ESV) "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

She takes the money, good intention as she wants to bless the Lord and instead she takes it to make a carved image for herself. So false religion actually starts always with good intention. There is nobody who starts religion with a bad intention, and she could have worshipped any number of neighborhood gods around at that time, like Dagon of the Philistines or Chemosh or Baal. She never chose them, instead she chose to worship Yahweh.

2. Religious Pragmatism

The name of Micah is very significant. Micah is basically the one who is like Yahweh.

Judges 17:5-6 (ESV) And the man Micah **had a shrine**, and he made an ephod **and household gods**, and ordained one of his sons, who became his priest. 6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

This is a phrase that comes in again and again. God says in Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 12:4-6 (ESV) 4 You **shall not worship the Lord your God in that way**. 5 But you shall **seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there**. There you shall go, 6 and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock.

This is like the place that the Lord choose is FBC, you cannot worship at USJ4. Again, Micah is breaking the law. If you can see this is in our society. If you go to Genting Highlands, you will find a lot of religious figures. As you are driving up there, the gods are smiling at you and when you go at the top there is a Chin Swee Caves Temple. Why is there a temple next to the gambling? It is obvious, religious pragmatism. They don't have time to go to temple on Sunday, so they have a temple next door. This is called religious pragmatism, and this is beginning of the seeds of apostasy.

Akihiko Kondo recently married a hologram. All his life he was bullied by women. They called him 'drop dead, creepy otaku!'. He said, *"Two-dimensional characters can't cheat, age or die, "I'm not seeking these in real women. It's impossible."*

So basically, he wants something after his own making and it is a convenient god. Psalm 115

*Their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands.
They have mouths but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.
They have ears but cannot hear,
noses, but cannot smell.
They have hands but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk.
They cannot make a sound with their throats.
Those who make them are just like them,
as are all who trust in them. (Psalm 115: 4-8)*

Isn't it convenient to have a God like that, never enforcing you like a wife. So, it is like a best kind of god that you can have.

False religion begins with Self righteousness

Judges 17:5-6 (ESV) And the man Micah had a shrine, and he **made an ephod and household gods, and ordained one of his sons, who became his priest.** 6 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Not only he is having a shrine, you have the ephod which is the special dress which the priest have. He made one of his sons as priest. Why did he do that? Probably the son was more righteous than him. That's what we do in our lives. If we look at the parable of the prodigal son, the son when he ran out of money realizes that he is in deep-deep trouble and he has to go back and he says

Luke 15:18-19 (ESV) I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."

Why did he do that?

Because he still needs to earn his way back into the good graces of his father. We are always trying to clean-up our own lives with our own measure of self-righteousness.

False religion is ultimately bound up with materialism

Judges 17:2-4 (ESV) And he said to his mother, "The **1,100 pieces of silver** that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it." And his mother said, "Blessed be my son by the Lord." 3 And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, "**I dedicate the silver to the Lord from my hand** for my son, to make a carved image and a metal image. Now therefore I will restore it to you." 4 So when he restored the money to his mother, his mother took **200 pieces of silver and gave it to the silversmith**, who made it into a carved image and a metal image.

She promised to give 1100 but at the end she gave only 200. She hid the other 900. It sounds familiar to Acts 5 Ananias and Sapphira. False religion is bound up with materialism. Here you actually have a young man from Bethlehem. He wasn't in one of the designated 48 cities for Levites to be in and he was a Levite

who is a priestly class, he sojourned there, and he is looking to sojourn where he can find a place. He journeyed to the hill country

Judges 17:7-9 (ESV) Now there was a young man of Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and **he sojourned there**. 8 And the man departed from the town of Bethlehem in Judah **to sojourn where he could find a place**. And as he journeyed, he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah. 9 And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I am a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to sojourn **where I may find a place.**"

So, you have a wondering gunslinger as it were, a wondering pastor with no job and he is going from town to town looking for somebody to hire him. That's not how it happens. Deuteronomy says

Deuteronomy 18:6-7 (ESV) And if a Levite comes from any of your towns out of all Israel, where he lives—and he may come when he desires—to **the place that the Lord will choose**, 7 and **ministers in the name of the Lord his God**,

You can't just have a wondering gunslinger kind of priest, go anywhere you like and be your personal pastor. There is no such thing like that. You have to go to where God designates, and you minister in the name of the Lord. So here it says, I will make you an offer that you cannot refuse.

Judges 17:10-12 (ESV) And Micah said to him, "Stay with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you **ten pieces of silver a year and a suit of clothes and your living.**" And the Levite went in. 11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons. And Micah **ordained the Levite**, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

Micah from the tribe of Ephraim ordained the priest, which he is not allowed to do. So now you are supposed to go to a place where God designates and minister in the name of God, now he is ministering in the name of Micah. So false religion is ultimately bound up with materialism.

The use of spiritual leverage for personal gain

Judges 17:12-13 (ESV) 13 Then Micah said, "Now I know that the **Lord will prosper me**, because I have a Levite as priest."

So here the whole idea of religion is that, the purpose of religion is to give you blessing. The purpose of religion is to give you success. If you look at it, we become cultural Christians and we look at our lives and the lives of non-Christians and there is not a lot of difference. We are now cultivating consumers rather than worshippers. People come to church to be entertained rather than to be broken. We are looking at an audience rather than a flock of sheep. That's why after service on Sunday, everybody goes back early. They don't come back to be disciplined. That's what happening to the church.

Some people think that God can be controlled. Kenneth Copeland says,

"Faith is a spiritual force, a spiritual energy, a spiritual power. It is this force of faith which makes the laws of the spirit world function," "There are certain laws governing prosperity revealed in God's Word. Faith causes them to function."

They think that with faith we can actually control God. If you don't believe me this is an article from christianitymalaysia.com. Michael Lee of Full Gospel Businessman says that he was in very difficult spot in his life. He said, he was bankrupt, his business was in trouble and then they told him to become a Christian and you will prosper. He took this and he said, if you are the true God, I surrender my life and lets see how you take you life.

Because of his faith and obedience to God, many miracles began to take place; he got his house, his security business prospered and his relationship with his wife could not better! "If you are faithful to God, the Bible says, 'You will reap the good of the land!'" he shared

It looks like very transactional relationship. This is a kind of theology that a lot of Christians have bought into that you use spiritual leverage. You give something to God and then God give something to you. Creflo Dollar says

"When we pray, believing that we have already received what we are praying, God has no choice but to make our prayers come to pass. . . . It is a key to getting results as a Christian."

So you pray with a faith, God has no choice. His hands are tied. He has got to heal you. He has got to give you the million dollars, he has got to give you your BMW. We think this because all our problems come down from whittling God down to our size.

Psalms 50:21 (ESV) These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

We think God is like us, he can be bribed. The whole problem is idolatry, whittling God down to our size. The whole problem with idolatry is that He must look like us. We are remaking God in our image and you can find later on this idea that the whole tribe of Dan comes round to Micah, you are very good, I like your idol, I like your shrine and they grabbed his shrine and they say, well we will buy into this. The entire tribe commits idolatry and all the other tribes didn't say any word.

If a tribe goes to idolatry they are supposed to be placed under the ban, they were supposed to be destroyed, God will not tolerate. They didn't lift a single finger. This is what happening to the people of Israel. Now we come to Judges.

Establishment of False Religion

Judges 18:30-31 (ESV) And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and **Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses**, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. 31 So they set up **Micah's carved image** that he made, as long as the house of God was at Shiloh.

This priest was actually Moses descendant. So, it doesn't mean that your pedigree protects you from false religion. False religion can arise out of any root.

FALSE RELIGION LEADS TO PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DISINTEGRATION (JUDGES 19-21)

Here is the story which epitomizes this whole sorry saga of the society. As a Levite who is basically a priest like figure, and he has got concubine. Levite having a concubine is very complicated in those days.

Judges 19: 1 **In those days, when there was no king in Israel**, a certain Levite was sojourning in the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, who took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah

The problem with concubine is that she is also not clean.

Judges 19:2-3 (ESV) And his **concubine** was unfaithful to him, and she went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah and was there some four months. 3 Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back

So apparently this priest is a nice guy. He is wearing the Green Hat all the way down to Bethlehem to bring his wife back and he persuades her and the concubine agrees to go back with him and then they go back from Bethlehem to go back to Ephraim. On their way there was a pitstop at Jebus, they didn't want

to go there because it was a city of foreigners. These are other people. They stopped at Gibeah because there were Israelites there.

At that time in Israel there were no hotels, you know why because they are supposed to take people in, especially your own kind, bring them to the house, hospitality rule is number one. There is no bigger rule than hospitality. It is extreme shame if nobody takes you in and here they are

Judges 19:15b ...And he went in and sat down in the open square of the city, for no one took them into his house to spend the night.

It is terrible. In those days somebody has to take you in. So, this shows extreme social disintegration and then an old man comes up

Judges 19:20-21 (ESV) And the old man said, "Peace be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square." 21 So he brought him into his house and gave the donkeys feed. And they washed their feet and ate and drank.

This man doesn't come from the city, he comes from Ephraim. He was a visiting guy and he is the one who takes him and the people of the city don't even take him in. Then you actually have a parallel event in Judges 19, the terrible thing that takes place, a whole bunch of people come at night and they bang on the door and they want to have sex with the priest. It is exactly the same as Genesis 19, they are parallel events. You can see that the words used in Genesis 19 and the words used in Judges 19 are one quarter of them are exactly same. The author uses the same Hebrew words. Homosexual sex is involved in both of them. Both the crowd wanted to have sex, the angels in Genesis 19 and the priest in Judges 19. Both of them thrust the women out as alternatives, which is very shocking. Both of them show you a breakdown of laws of adultery, homosexual sex and hospitality. They are even worse, they don't even respect a Levite. Here you see a total degradation of the people of Israel at that time are just like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah and they deserve the same punishment.

Judges 19:24-25 (ESV) Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them **and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing.**"

Can you imagine a father doing that to his daughter? How could man do such things? Well it says

Judges 17: 6 **In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

Judges 19:25 (ESV) But the men would not listen to him. So the **man seized his concubine** and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go.

What do you think the Levite was doing while she was screaming, he might have turned up the TV louder. What were the people in the town doing? Woman screaming in the middle of the night, being raped but everyone closed their windows.

Judges 19:26-27 (ESV) And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, until it was light. 27 And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold.

The Levite was sleeping while the woman was being raped. She was helpless and the Levite said

Judges 19:28-29 (ESV) He said to her, "Get up, let us be going." But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home.

This is total carelessness from a human being. This is a pastor, it is a terrible indictment of a human being.

29 And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.

The Bible is silent on whether the concubine was alive or dead when the priest cut her.

Judges 20:4-5 (ESV) And the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "I came to Gibeah that belongs to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to spend the night. 5 And the leaders of Gibeah rose against me and surrounded the house against me by night. They meant to kill me, and they **violated my concubine, and she is dead.**

How she died he doesn't say, but it implies that they actually killed her. So here you actually see the irony is that, he went to Gibeah rather than Jebus. There is an inverted sense of ethics, even in the man himself

Judges 19:23-24 (ESV) And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, do not act **so wickedly**; since this man has come into my house, do not do this **vile thing**. 24 Behold, here are my virgin

daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing.”

What kind of ethics is that? Don't touch this man but violate my daughter and this concubine as well. It is an inverted sense of ethics.

Judges 19:30 (ESV) And all who saw it said, “Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak.”

If you look at this complaint later on what happens is that it led to full scale civil war and you can find they actually mobilized 400,000 Israelites to fight against the tribe of Benjamin to decimate them and when they found out that they have decimated a lot of them until there is nothing left, they started to realize that they overdid the killing in Judges 21 when only 600 of them were left, what they did was they grabbed and raped 400 virgins and 200 dancers and used them as forced wives to the remnant tribe of Benjamin. Full scale civil war happened and if you look at the way he testified to them,

Judges 19:22 As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the **men of the city**, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door

Judges 20:4-5 (ESV) And the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, “I came to Gibeah that belongs to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to spend the night. 5 And the **leaders of Gibeah** rose against me and surrounded the house against me by night. They meant to **kill me**, and **they violated my concubine**, and **she is dead**

They didn't mean to kill him, they just want to have fun time with him. He added chili and spice to the story to instigate the crowd. After his complaint nobody investigated about it. They took the word of one Levite and they started to prosecute a civil war. Here you can see the irony. The irony is that, when the entire tribe of Dan goes into idolatry, they don't lift a single finger. When one woman gets killed, complained by the Levite, they mobilized 400,000 troops which is more than Deborah could mobilize or Samson can mobilize, to destroy their fellow Israelites. The disproportionality of sin and punishment. Because when man does what they want in their eyes, certain sins are important, certain sins are not important, because we decide. This is a society that has gone mad and it is the same as our society where we are supposed to live together in a rainbow coalition as it were, but our society is similarly fragmented. We are a completely dysfunctional society, we are totally disintegrated, because everybody is doing what is right in their own eyes.

We measure spiritual growth by what we know. We want attention but we don't want sacrifice. We are concerned more about reputation than relationships and we measure our spiritual growth by accomplishments. We will choose work over people, our schedule is more important and then when you come to church, we have anything there, we will ask ourselves what do I get out of this. So, this is everybody doing what is right in their own eyes. Our society is totally disintegrated. If you look at the way we live our lives, we have lots of human beings in the world but not much humanity. It is contradiction. Our handphoned are full of contacts but very few relationships. We have lots of possessions but not much appreciation. We know the price of everything, but we don't know the value of anything. That is our society, we are totally fragmented and confused.

Akihiko Kondo says

"Diversity in society has been long called for," "It won't necessarily make you happy to be bound to the 'template' of happiness in which a man and woman marry and bear children." "I believe we must consider all kinds of love and all kinds of happiness."

So therefore, it is diversity according to him. Our morals and values are totally skewed.

WE NEED TO COME UNDER THE TRUE KING

Judges 21:25 (ESV) In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

If you look subsequent to that, the genealogy of kings of Ancient Israel and Judah and all of them were total failure. So obviously it didn't refer to that king. An American Muslim wrote an article and he proposes a viable answer to society's disintegration. He says,

*In contrast to Christianity, Islam not only enjoins the ideal to protect the integrity of family, but at the same time it also chalks out means and strategy to curb the potential undesirables that may lead to the violation of the ideal. Islam does not leave the believers unguided on crucial aspects that with small disruption could bring monstrous consequences on the stability of the entire society. - **Abdul-Majid Jaffry***

He is correct, society is disintegrated but we need to put in these strategies to curb and what do they do? They say to amend the constitution, so that there may be more punishment. There is a campaign of making Malaysia an Islamic Nation. Dr Ahmad Farouk Musa, chairman of Islamic Renaissance Front wrote,

Only in a secular state can a Muslim live a life based on his own freewill and true conviction for the sake of God, not because they are scared of the state apparatus and imposition

You cannot have true faith if you are forced to obey. You cannot be pious if you are forced to be pious. You must have freedom. Freedom is the basis. Soren Kierkegaard's writes in his book, "The Sickness Unto Death'

"sin is building your identity-your self-worth and happiness-on anything other than God".

It is inside. The king can't be a king on the outside. The king has to be a king on the inside. Islam didn't get that, kings of Israel and the people didn't get that, a lot of countries don't get that. Sin is making anything else king in our lives and Romans chapter 1 tells us

Romans 1:21-23 (ESV) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

That is the problem. Sin is when you are elevating people above God. When you elevate people above God, this is what Micah did. His name was like Yahweh, but he was anything but like Yahweh. Israel is the greatest enemy of Israel. They mobilized 400,000 men to kill their own tribe.

The author purposely didn't write the names of the Levite or the concubine. He suppressed it because these nameless figures represent the society. The entire society is like that. I could put anybody there, they are all like that. Adolph Eichmann was one of the people who are architects of the German holocaust and killed millions of people. They brought him to trial and the writer Hannah Arendt was struck by the banality of evil. Adolph Eichmann was not a scary guy with horns on his head and blood dripping from his mouth. He was an ordinary man just like us. She writes,

I was struck by the manifest shallowness in the doer [ie Eichmann] which made it impossible to trace the uncontestable evil of his deeds to any deeper level of roots or motives. The deeds were monstrous, but the doer – at least the very effective one now on trial – was quite ordinary, commonplace, and neither demonic nor monstrous.

He is like one of us. Then we look at the atrocities that happen in this country to us, a lot of our people never want to go to Japan because they have witnessed firsthand Japanese chopping people heads in front of them. Now if you go to

Japan today, they are the nicest people on the face of the earth. The banality of evil, it looks like underneath the surface, the evil is all of us. We have debates on sedition laws, regulation of Facebook, censorship of internet, why because at the slightest provocation we will take to the streets. Freedom of speech has its limits, and we are struggling with that, because all it takes is one Levite to tell a couple of lies and they went up and killed almost the entire tribe. The same spirit is here today because as a society are totally fragmented. We are a society where we produce our self-contradictions. We blame God. When something bad happens, you will say if God is so powerful and so good, He could have prevented it, I hate you God. We are self-contradicting ourselves aren't we.

Cash is king in our world. Because once you put people at that people that things become above us. The ark of God is actually a throne. There are two cherubim here

Colossians 1:15-16 (ESV) He is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

The seat is empty for one reason on the ark of God. One day there will be a king and that king is Jesus Christ, who took the seat on that place and he bled and died. Only that king can be king of our hearts.

Little gods will produce little people. There was a story in the Chronicles of Narnia where Lucy meets Aslan again and as she grew older she said to Aslan, hey how come you look bigger and then Aslan says, the more you grow the more you will find me bigger. It is true. The more we grew in our Christian life, the more we understand the word then God will seem bigger. If you have a little god and you bring god down to our size, you will produce little people. One of the greatest inventions of all times is Hubble telescope. Why, because the Hubble telescope allows us to see beyond the clouds, beyond the atmosphere into the universe and we actually see the universe much-much bigger than what we actually believe. If we don't have technological advances, we will see the world as a flat plane, you can sail a ship and probably tip over the end, why because we are looking at the world through our own eyes. As we open our eyes, we see things bigger. So we need a big God. We need a true God.

Elizabeth Elliot who lost her husband to the Indians in Guatemala. They asked her, how she reconciles herself to the death of her husband on the mission field and she says,

If He is God then He is worthy of my worship and my service and I will find rest no anywhere but in His will and that will is infinitely, immeasurably unspeakably beyond the largest notion of what we think He is up to

The true God is beyond what you can think, you can feel, you can imagine, He is immense. Even the Hubble telescope could only show you a little bit of what He is like. We cannot come to church and look for Success all the time. Let me tell you, if you are under the kinship of the only one true king there will be Surrender, Sacrifice, Suffering, Service and Seeking His will. That's the S word. If God is your king then this is your S word. If you are the king then you will always want success.

Patrick Morley writes,

.. must help people discover their identity and purpose in Christ, not in satisfying worldly ambitions. It must help them discover their spiritual gifts and calling, rather than endorse the pursuit of pleasure. It must help men and women discover God's will rather than encouraging them to write their own script—a script that invariably includes a constant desire for more and more things.

The throne is no longer empty brothers and sisters in Christ. You can continue to do things the way you like, come to church, leave as you like and not be part of this family and run the way self-sufficient, self-reliance, self-will, self-protecting or your life will disintegrate as our society is disintegrated. We need a true king, not imposing from outside but from inside with a throne that is filled, with a person who bled and this day the awful tragedy of Judges 17-21 is repeated again and again in every corner of this world because in every corner of this world we need the true king.